

California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

Board Meeting

Friday, December 9, 2005

University of California, Merced

5200 North Lake Road

Merced, California

– Summary of Meeting Proceedings –

I. Call to Order

Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak welcomed attendees and called the meeting of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley to order at the Kolligian Library, University of California, Merced (UC Merced) at 9:30 AM.

She introduced Deputy Co-Chairs Fritz Grupe and Supervisor Connie Conway who also made welcoming remarks.

II. Welcome

Secretary McPeak introduced UC Merced Vice Chancellor David Ashley who welcomed participants on behalf of the University and talked about role the University, which among other things will be to uniquely serve the cultural population mix in the Central Valley.

Supervisor Mike Nelson and Mayor Ellie Wooten welcomed attendees on behalf of the County and City of Merced.

Self-introductions of all in attendance followed.

Secretary McPeak briefly explained the history and membership of the Partnership for first-time attendees.

III. Approval of Minutes from September 16, 2005 Meeting (including Revised Scopes of Work for Work Groups)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes (including the Revised Scopes of Work for the Work Groups) of the September 16, 2005 as provided. Secretary McPeak noted no objection and the motion passed by consensus.

IV. Approval of Outstanding Assignments

A handout containing the “Revised Principles and Ground Rules,” “Proposed Vision Statement,” and “Approach to Consensus—a Working Definition” was distributed.

Revised Principles and Ground Rules

Secretary McPeak requested that members voice any requests for additions or changes. Supervisor Gary Gilbert requested that collaboration with tribal governments be added to the ground rules. The revised Principles and Ground Rules read as follows:

The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley should:

- Respect differences among communities and participants.
- Seek broad consensus for decision-making.
- Identify and build upon shared values and common ground (aligned interests).
- Focus on Valley-wide issues to add value and not duplicate efforts.
- Consider what is best for entire region; focus on solutions requiring collaboration across jurisdictions.
- Align interests, actions and impacts.
- Focus on both short-term actions for immediate results and long-term strategies for economic prosperity (actions and results that are identifiable, achievable, doable).
- Prioritize actions both within Work Groups and for the Partnership to ensure focus and success.
- Prioritize issues and opportunities for state action, involvement and legislation.
- Seek and facilitate collaboration among local, regional, state, federal and tribal governments.

With that addition, Secretary McPeak noted no objection and the Revised Principles and Ground Rules were accepted by consensus.

Proposed Vision Statement

Discussion of the statement included a number of suggestions and proposed revisions. It was decided that the Deputy Co-Chairs should take the statements presented in the discussion and formulate a revised Vision Statement to be presented to the Partnership at the March 2006 meeting.

Secretary McPeak noted that each Work Group should prepare a vision statement articulating the vision for that Work Group.

Approach to Consensus—A Working Definition

A “consensus approach” to decision making by the Board for the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley means that the Chair and Deputy Chairs will interpret and state for the record the sense of the body following deliberation on matters instead of entertaining formal motions and taking votes on agenda items. Consensus does not mean achieving unanimity among all Board members, but rather that general agreement and concurrence is reached among

all or most members (“most” meaning a super majority of at least 70%). Further, when there is dissent or a minority opinion, that will be noted and recorded in the written meeting proceedings. It will be the intent of the Partnership to reach as much agreement as possible among all Board members regarding action items and to focus on those issues on which there is unanimity of concurrence.

Brief discussion followed. Secretary McPeak noted no objection and the Approach to Consensus was accepted.

V. Remarks from State and Federal Elected Officials

Representatives of State and Federal Elected Officials were invited to make remarks to the group at this time. It was noted that this item is left open to allow any other State or Federal representatives who may arrive late to have an opportunity to speak.

Mike Lukens welcomed participants on behalf of Congressman George Radanovich. Dee Dee D’Adamo extended thanks to the Partnership and made brief remarks on behalf of Congressman Dennis Cardoza.

VI. Reports from Work Groups / Discussion of Priorities for Action

Each Work Group convener or representative reported on Work Group progress to date, including, but not limited to, the Work Group meeting on December 8.

Higher Education and Work Force Development Work Group

Larry Fortune reported for the Higher Education and Work Force Development Work Group. This Work Group combined efforts with the Economic Development Work Group and its report is included with the Economic Development Work Group.

Economic Development Work Group

Supervisor Jeff Grover reported for the Economic Development Work Group. A handout reporting on the work of the combined Work Groups was distributed. Six points will be the focus of the two groups:

- Economic Competitiveness and Workforce Development in Target Industries
- Regional Planning for Health Care Training
- Student Access and Degree Attainment in Baccalaureate Education
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Renewable Energy as Economic Opportunity
- Infrastructure and Incentive Programs

Ashley Swearengin, who is providing support for both Work Groups, was introduced. She distributed a copy of a grant application being submitted on behalf of the Partnership for a Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant. Ms. Swearengin explained that this is a \$15 million proposal over three years being made to the US Department of Labor to integrate economic development, workforce development and K – 12 education. Questions and discussion followed.

A motion was made and seconded to unanimously support the WIRED grant proposal. Secretary McPeak noted no objection and the motion was approved.

K – 12 Education Work Group

Mayor Alan Autry spoke on behalf of the K-12 Education Work Group. The Work Group has held 2 meetings. The Work Group held an initial meeting with the eight County Superintendents and Education Secretary Bersin at the University of California Merced in November. Funding challenges, accountability programs and a unified framework for intervention for failing schools were discussed. The City of Fresno has proposed an alternative accountability model (proposed Education Governance Model) for its local schools. At the request of Deputy Co-Chair Fritz Grupe, the City of Fresno Alternative Accountability Model/Proposed Education Governance Model was copied and distributed.

The Work Group also met on December 8 and discussed additional items including vocational education, charter schools, schools as neighborhood centers, homework assistance for students from non-English speaking families. Questions and discussion followed.

Telecommunications Work Group

Ray Dezember spoke on behalf of both the Telecommunications and the Transportation and Highway 99 Work Group. Three documents were distributed: The SJV Partnership Telecommunications Work Group Report, the SJV Partnership Transportation Work Group Report, and the Highway 99 Business Plan.

Mr. Dezember reported for the Telecommunications Work Group. The group met by teleconference on December 8. Dr. Barbara O'Connor of CSU Sacramento acted as covener. Laura Doll, Deputy Executive Director of the California Public Utilities Commission, joined the group. The group has agreed to begin gathering information on barriers to deployment in unserved and underserved areas. They will work on compiling best practices and regional models to inform future recommendations, and requested an online workspace to support their continued work.

Transportation and Highway 99 Work Group

Mr. Dezember reported for the Transportation and Highway 99 Work Group. Approximately 40 people participated in the Work Group on December 8.

The group requested that following issues be added to the initial Scope of Work for future discussion:

- Improvement of Interstate 5.
- East/West Corridors especially as they relate to goods movement.
- Alternative transportation for people and goods.
- Exploration of transportation funding models (i.e. Texas).
- Dedicated truck lanes and intermodal stations.
- Triple trailer legislation.

The Highway 99 Business Plan

The Highway 99 Business Plan was prepared by the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and identifies major projects that will improve safety, reduce congestion and facilitate goods management along the Highway 99 Corridor. The Transportation Work Group discussed the Business Plan the day before, and a package of COG letters supporting the Business Plan. All 8 COGs in the Valley have provided letters endorsing the Business Plan. Mr. Dezember noted that the COGs endorsements contain a recommendation of \$4 billion in improvements over the next decade, but after discussions on December 8, where representatives of all COGs participated in the Work Group, the recommendation was revised to \$6 billion.

The Transportation and Highway 99 Work Group recommended that the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley both review the Highway 99 Business Plan, which proposes that \$6 billion be invested in improvements on Highway 99 over the next 10 years, and formally endorse it and request the State to help secure \$6 billion to assist in implementation of the Plan.

Questions and discussion about the process of highway funding followed. Secretary McPeak noted that the Highway 99 Task force had committed to the Governor that the Highway 99 Business Plan would be completed by December 2005 and routed through the Partnership for review. The Business Plan will become the basis for negotiations with the US Department of Transportation. In the afternoon Caltrans will provide the Partnership with additional detail on the Plan. All California transportation projects come under review at the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission. Highway 99 is one of the four key goods movement corridors in the State. The Plan will become a part of the overall Goods Movement Action Plan. Therefore, with Partnership action, the Highway 99 Business plan will become part of the *GoCalifornia* Mobility Action Plan as well.

Discussion of how Interstate standards should be accommodated followed. Secretary McPeak noted that safety and capacity must take precedence over other Interstate standards, and it is the responsibility of her office to organize and follow up on those priorities.

Land Use, Housing and Agriculture Work Group

Supervisor Victor Mow reported on behalf of the Land Use, Housing and Agriculture Work Group. He thanked Ed Thompson of American Farmland Trust, Richard Cummings of the Great Valley Center, Bruce Race of RACESTUDIO, Rod Meade (an independent planner), and Mike McCoy of the University of California Davis for their presentations to the Work Group.

The Group focused on broad principles and a model of how the San Joaquin Valley should look in the future, and discussed the Guiding Principles for Land Use and Growth adopted by the San Joaquin Valley Regional Association of California Counties. The Work Group agreed to build the plan around these principles. The Group has requested GIS models and will develop strategies to use them. The Group agreed on the following vision statement:

“Develop a regional consensus that identifies areas appropriate for social and economic development that will contribute to preserving prime agricultural lands, sensitive natural resources and processes, and contributes to a sustainable quality of life for all residents within the region.”

This concluded the Land Use, Housing and Agriculture Work Group report.

The Partnership took a break for lunch and reconvened at 1:20 PM.

VII. Report from the Federal Interagency Task Force

Continuation of the Work Group reports was delayed in order to receive the report of the Federal Interagency Task Force.

Fritz Grupe introduced Pete Weber, liaison to the Federal Interagency Task Force. Mr. Weber asked that the Partnership and the Federal Interagency Task Force work to schedule a joint meeting with the Congressional delegation from the Central Valley during the April recess in 2006 to update federal representatives and receive their input.

Rollie Smith, Coordinator of the Federal Interagency Task Force, was introduced and gave Partnership members a brief explanation of the structure of the Federal Interagency Task Force and provided a diagram of the structure.

Carlos Mendoza of the Economic Development Administration was introduced by Rollie Smith. Mr. Mendoza spoke briefly about barriers to affordable housing.

VI. Reports from Work Groups (continued)

The Land Use, Housing and Agriculture Work Group report resumed with comments and discussion.

The Work Group requested that the Partnership support the inclusion of the San Joaquin Valley North-South Corridors (Highway 99 and Interstate 5) as a priority project to be funded under the Goods Movement Plan, with funding aimed at both reducing congestion and air pollution. It was noted that the Goods Movement Plan is available for review on the BTH and CalEPA Websites.

Air Quality and Environmental Protection Work Group

Councilmember Sue Benham reported for the Air Quality and Environmental Protection Work Group. A handout outlining the December 8 Work Group meeting was distributed. Since there is a high degree of overlap of this Work Group and other Work Groups, the group requested that at the next Partnership meeting there is time specifically set aside for Work Groups to meet with each other.

Ms. Benham introduced Pete Weber, who reported for the group. He described how the Work Group defined the issues and their goals and gave extensive background information on air quality issues in the Central Valley. The Valley is a non-attainment region and according to all statistics regardless of technological advances will fall short of EPA's air quality goals. The growth that the Valley is experiencing makes this even more challenging. The Work Group decided to not support the idea of requesting a deferral from EPA goals, but rather to develop a plan to meet EPA 2013 goals.

Water Quality, Supply and Reliability Work Group

Councilmember Paul Boyer reported for the Water Quality, Supply and Reliability Work Group. He thanked Kamyar Guivetchi, Department of Water Resources, Steve Hall, Association of California Water Agencies, and Jay Chamberlain, California Resources Agency, for their presentations at the Work Group meeting. He noted that this Group is working to be intertwined with the federal group that has been formed by four Members of Congress representing the Valley and suggested that the Work Group and the federal group have consistent recommendations.

The group will focus on the four points articulated by the federal group.

- Water Supply
- Environmental Restoration
- Water Quality
- Flood Control

Partnership Board members Paul Boyer and Coke Hallowell also are members of the federal group and will coordinate. There is much information already available on water. The update to the 2005 California Water Plan and the Association of California Water Agencies "blueprint for water" are both new reports. The Work Group will take information already generated and look at what is relevant to the San Joaquin Valley before making recommendations.

Dave Zoldoske was introduced. He gave some history on the federal water group goals and how it was formed, which includes participation from state and local representatives as well. Their first phase effort will be an inventory of all the projects and opportunities in the region.

Questions and discussion followed.

Health and Human Services Work Group

Fritz Grupe reported on the Health and Human Services Work Group. Fred Ruiz discussed how the health and scholarship programs at his company represent the best practices in the area. He summarized discussion by the Group regarding the following problems:

- Many Valley residents do not know what services are available.
- There are not enough providers; there should be incentives to attract providers.
- The system is not accessible to everyone especially early care, available in neighborhoods.
- Pre-natal care should be more available and accessible.
- Healthier food needs to be available.
- Sports program for parents and kids should be more available.
- There is a need to identify federal, state, local and private funding.

Discussion and comments followed.

VIII. Reports from Designated Liaisons

No separate report was given due to time constraints. Liaisons participated in the discussions throughout the meeting.

IX. Identification of Opportunities for Immediate Action and Short-Term Success

This item was not discussed separately due to time constraints. There was considerable discussion about opportunities for immediate action and short-term success in conjunction with each Work Group Report.

X. Review and Approval of Highway 99 Business Plan (based on Caltrans Highway 99 Master Plan and Reports from Transportation Work Group and Great Valley Center Task Force)

Secretary McPeak introduced Carolyn Lott of the Great Valley Center and Mike Leonardo, Director of Caltrans District 6, who gave a brief overview of the Business Plan for Highway 99. Copies of the document were distributed. Ms. Lott described the Business Plan as the consensus of the 8 county COGs, saying that it has been vetted extensively throughout the region. Companion to the Business Plan is the Route 99 Enhancement Plan which also was prepared with public input from a wide variety of interested people and groups.

Mr. Leonardo described the process of determining the projects to be included. Each County COG developed a transportation plan in conjunction with Caltrans. This Business Plan incorporates all those projects on the Highway 99 corridor from the 8 County COG plans and estimates costs. That price tag is \$6 billion. The improvements were divided into four priorities: safety; operational improvements; widening; and new interchanges. It is not a funding and financing plan. A funding and financing plan still will be needed.

A motion was made to support and accept the Business Plan for Highway 99 which proposes \$6 billion in improvements for the Highway 99 corridor as presented. Secretary McPeak noted no objection and the motion was passed by consensus.

XI. Schedule for 2006

A schedule of future meetings with alternate proposed dates was distributed. Partnership members were asked to make Secretary McPeak's office aware of any dates they could not attend.

XII. Other Business

No other business was presented.

XIII. Public Comments

Josh Franco, a student at the University of California Merced, addressed the Partnership on the importance of having young people involved in the process. The suggestion was made that Colleges and Universities in the San Joaquin Valley be asked to assist the Partnership in getting students involved.

XIV. Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.

**California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley
December 9, 2005 Board Meeting Attendees**

Board Members Present

Local Elected Officials

Supervisor Connie Conway, County of Tulare
Mayor Michael Amabile, City of Los Banos
Mayor Alan Autry, City of Fresno
Councilwoman Susan Benham, City of Bakersfield
Councilman Paul Boyer, City of Farmersville
Councilwoman Marcelyn Buford, City of Hanford
Supervisor Gary Gilbert, Madera County
Supervisor Jeff Grover, Stanislaus County
Supervisor Victor Mow, San Joaquin County

Civic Leaders

Fritz Grupe, Grupe Company
Sheila Carroll, Ross F. Carroll, Inc.
Ray Dezember, Bakersfield Californian
Larry Fortune, Fortune Associates
Coke Hallowell, San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation
Fred Ruiz, Ruiz Foods
Lorraine Salazar, Sal's Mexican Restaurants
Sharron Thornton, The Grass is Greener Landscape Management

Cabinet Secretaries

Victoria Bradshaw, Secretary, Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Mike Chrisman, Secretary, Resources Agency
Sunne Wright McPeak, Secretary, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

Cabinet Designees

John Barna, Deputy Secretary, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
Tony Kline, Office of the Secretary for Education, for Secretary Bersin
Scott Reid, Special Assistant, State & Consumer Services Agency, for Secretary Fred Aguiar
Cindy Tuck, California Environmental Protection Agency, for Secretary Alan Lloyd
A.J. Yates, Undersecretary, Department of Food and Agriculture, for Secretary A.G. Kawamura

Designated Officials

Appointed Liaisons

R. Kirk Lindsey, Brite Transport Systems, Liaison to the California Transportation Commission
Barbara Patrick, Supervisor, Kern County, Liaison to the California Air Resources Board
Pete Weber, ANRON International, Fresno, Liaison to the Federal Interagency Task Force

Other Key Partners

Supporting Agencies

Heidi Arno, Great Valley Center
Mark Keppler, The Maddy Institute, CSU Fresno
Carolyn Lott, Program Manager, Great Valley Center
Mike Lynch, Chief Operating Officer, Great Valley Center
Chris Nance, Deputy Secretary, Business, Transportation & Housing Agency
Wayne Schell, California Association for Local Economic Development
Rollie Smith, Operations Specialist, US Department of Housing & Urban Development
Dave Spaur, Central California Economic Development Corporation
Ashley Swearengin, Executive Director, Central California Futures Institute
Jim Tischer, Regional Program Manager, Center for Water Technology
Kate Tansey, Labor & Workforce Development Agency
Carol Whiteside, President, Great Valley Center

Other Guests

George Boodrookas, Modesto Junior College
Phyllis Grupe, Co-Chair, San Joaquin A+
Paul Johnson, Consultant with US Department of Energy
Michael Lukens, Office of Congressman Radanovich
Larry Martin, E&J Gallo Winery
Mike Nelson, Merced County Board of Supervisors
Katie Otto, Fresno County Workforce and Investment Board
Peter Pirnejad, City of Lodi
Chris Rosander, UC Merced Small Business Development Regional Network
Leida Wallack, Health Care Consultant, San Joaquin County
Georgeanne White, Chief of Staff to Mayor Alan Autry
Ellie Wooten, Mayor, City of Merced
Doug Henton, Collaborative Economics
Jan Ennenga, Manufacturers Council of the Central Valley
Alfredo Mendoza, Merced County Workforce Investment
Mike Souza, Alliance Small Business Development Center, Merced
Aubrey Cairns, The Maddy Institute, CSU Fresno
Carol Cairns, Assistant City Manager, City of Visalia
Karen Beardsley, Information Center for the Environment, UC Davis
Laura Catherman, UC Merced
Mao Yang, Senator Machado's Office
DeeDee D'Adamo, Senior Policy Advisor, Congressman Dennis Cardoza
Bill Mayben, Standard Pacific Homes
Ed Thompson, American Farmland Trust
Bill Ruud, CSU Stanislaus Vice President of Development and University Relations
Rod Addington, President, Business Council of San Joaquin County
Joe Johnson, Port of Stockton
Kathryn Phillips, Environmental Defense
Linda Beattie, EDD, Workforce Investment Division

Steve Rath, City Manager, City of Los Banos
Mike McAdam, Los Banos City Council
Ken Hubler, RDA Manager, City of Los Banos
Jessica Roberts, Resources Agency
Jay Chamberlain, Resources Agency
Linda Lopez, Merced resident
Mariela DeLeon, Community Health and Wellness Director, Kaiser Permanente Central Valley
Christina Varner, Kern Economic Development Corporation
Kyle Loreto, Deputy Chief of Staff, Fresno Mayor's Office
Andy Souza, City Manager, Fresno
Natalie Culver, Employer-Focused Training Center, Merced College
Terry Lewis, Associate Planner, Merced County Association of Governments
Ron and Marcy Silva, Westar Transport
Jessica Beddow, Ranchwood Homes
Carrie Pourvahidi, California High Speed Rail Authority
Victor Dillon, Laborers Apprenticeship
Allen Carden, Central Valley Higher Education Consortium
Robern Fain, Field Ironworkers Apprenticeship and Training Program
Bill Seifert, Construction Industry Force Account Council
Belen Torres, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

Public

Josh Franco, student, UC Merced